

COVID-19 Update Concerning the Care of Your Horse

We know that this is a stressful time for everyone and that you are also concerned about continuing care for your horses. **Foundation Equine Wellness and Performance is committed to doing as much as we can, for as long as we can, within the guidelines required by the State of New Jersey. While conditions are changing every day, at present, we are able to do essential care as well as full emergency care.** Non time-dependent care will be postponed for a month or two. This is contingent upon the health status of our veterinarians and staff. Although, horses have their own coronavirus that does not affect humans, as far as we know, horses cannot contract or transmit Covid 19. However, surfaces such as stall door handles, lead lines and any other surfaces in the barn can act as fomites (inanimate objects which can spread diseases through contact with them) and transmit the virus from human to human. In order to help us to stay healthy and be able to continue services, please note our new protocols.

- **Emergency Services** - As always, we remain committed to providing emergency services to our clients and patients. Nothing has changed here. In an emergency always call 609-291-0535. **Please do not try to contact one of our veterinarians directly on their cell phone during an emergency (this is true at all times).**
- **Farm Appointments** - Please limit the people present at any appointment to the horse handler. Other people should not be in the veterinary work area. Please respect social distancing and physically stay back 6 feet from the veterinarian and his or her assistant. Please allow our assistants, if present, to handle your horse while you remain at least 6 feet away. **IF YOU ARE SICK PLEASE FIND AN ALTERNATE HANDLER OR CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT. DO NOT COME TO THE BARN!**
- **Spring Vaccinations** - We are currently scheduling for Spring vaccinations beginning in May. Please call as soon as possible to schedule your horse's Spring vaccinations as we expect that we will be busy as things return to normal.
- **Picking up medication/dropping off samples** - Call ahead for anything that you need to pick up or drop off at the office. The front door to the office may be locked but we can make transactions via the area designated over the phone when you call. If you do enter the office, please remain close to the front door until told to proceed and keep a distance of at least 6 feet from all present. **Please avoid any unnecessary contact with anyone or anything in the office.**
- **Payment** can be made over the phone via credit card.

Please stay safe and follow all recommended guidelines to keep yourself healthy!

COVID-19 & BARN SAFETY



Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or on surfaces and objects.

NO

Risk of COVID-19 spread

There is **no evidence at this point** to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.

YES

Risk of COVID-19 spread

Some commonly used surfaces that **should be disinfected at least once a day:**

- water and feed buckets
- cross ties, lead ropes
- halters and tack
- grooming supplies
- water taps and hoses
- stall and barn door handles
- wheelbarrow/shovels/broom handles
- frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, countertops, etc.



TIPS:

Use common sense if you continue to have lessons or boarders at your facility (think "strangles protocol").

Limit the number of people in the barn so they can maintain about 6 feet of distance between them. If riders or boarders are unable or unwilling to do this, you might have to excuse them from lessons or from coming to the barn until the pandemic has passed.

- Encourage boarders and owners to communicate with each other or to create a virtual schedule, to help limit the number of people present in the barn at the same time.

Actively encourage sick people and boarders to stay home.

- Ask boarders and owners to have enough feed (concentrate, hay, and supplements) and bedding for two weeks at the barn; emergency contacts and instructions for care (feed, supplements, medications, exercise, special concerns, etc.) should be written down.

Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting.

- Change the barn hours to allow more time for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all.

Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those ill with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.